

Application No. 10/649,153
Amendment Dated 12/8, 2004
Response to Office Action of July 29, 2004

PATENT
Docket Number 1810US01-EE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1.-15. (Cancelled).
16. (Currently amended). A rescue underlay for a mattress comprising:
- a. a substantially flat material comprising spacer woven fabric, wherein the material is substantially the size of a mattress;
 - b. at least one pull member; and
 - c. at least one patient securing belt.
17. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, further comprising at least one mattress retaining band.
18. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the material comprises plastic.
19. (Cancelled).
20. (Currently amended). The underlay of claim ~~16~~16, wherein the spacer woven fabric is a spacer knitted fabric.
21. (Currently amended). The underlay of claim ~~16~~16, wherein the spacer woven fabric has a thickness from about 4 mm to about 20 mm.
22. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of flame resistant material, fire-resistant material, non-decaying material, non-hygroscopic material, polyester material, polyamide material, aramide material, glass fiber material, saran material, or combination thereof.
23. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the material further comprises a coating on the underside.
24. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating is a plastic film.

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25. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 24, wherein the plastic film is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyester, and combination thereof.
26. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 24, wherein the plastic film exhibits a lower sliding friction than the material.
27. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating is water-impermeable.
28. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating is washable.
29. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating is air-permeable.
30. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating is readily disinfected.
31. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the material further comprises a braking surface, wherein the braking surface exhibits a higher sliding friction than the material.
32. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating further comprises a braking surface, wherein the braking surface exhibits a higher sliding friction than the coating.
33. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the material comprises a plurality of layers of substantially flat material fixedly attached to each other.
34. (Currently amended). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the patient securing belt is attached to the underlay mat by an attachment selected from the group consisting of sewing and ~~Velcro~~ hook and loop connections.

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35. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the underlay further comprises tunnel-like receptions for accommodating the patient securing belt when the patient securing belt is not in use.
36. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 35, wherein the tunnel-like receptions are positioned substantially transversely to the underlay.
37. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 35, wherein the tunnel-like receptions are sewed onto the underlay.
38. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 35, wherein the tunnel-like receptions are located on the underside of the underlay.
39. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the underlay has three patient securing belts.
40. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the underlay is permanently affixed to a mattress.
41. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the underlay is integrated into a mattress.
42. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the pull member is a loop.
43. (Currently amended). A rescue underlay for a mattress comprising:
- a. a substantially flat material ~~having a substantially high tensile strength comprising~~ spacer woven fabric, wherein the material is substantially the size of a mattress;
 - b. at least one pull loop; and
 - c. at least one patient securing belt;
- ~~wherein the material provides a spring travel.~~
44. (Currently amended). A rescue underlay for a mattress comprising:

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- a. a substantially flat plastic material ~~having a substantially high tensile strength comprising spacer woven fabric~~, wherein the material is substantially the size of a mattress;
- b. at least one pull loop; and
- c. at least one patient securing belt;

~~wherein the plastic material provides a spring travel.~~

45. (Currently amended). A method of moving a patient comprising:

- a. providing a patient reclining on a rescue underlay for a mattress; and
- b. moving the patient from a first location to a second location, wherein the underlay comprises
 - i. a substantially flat material comprising spacer woven fabric, wherein the material is substantially the size of a mattress;
 - ii. at least one pull member; and
 - iii. at least one patient securing belt;

wherein the patient can be moved by one person pulling the patient on the rescue underlay.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Rescue underlay for mattresses (1), comprising
a substantially rectangular underlay mat (4) consisting of a plastic flat material which
5 has a high tensile strength, the dimensions of which approximately correspond with the
dimensions of the mattress (1),
pull loops (5) or the like, patient securing belts (6) and, optionally, mattress retaining
bands (7) or the like, all attached to the underlay mat (4),
characterised in that
10 the plastic flat material of the underlay mat (4) is a flat material that itself is providing a
spring travel.
2. Rescue underlay according to claim 1, characterised in that the plastic flat material
is a spacer woven fabric or, in particular, a spacer knitted fabric.
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3. Rescue underlay according to claim 2, characterised in that the spacer woven fabric
or spacer knitted fabric has a thickness of 4 mm to 20 mm, preferably of approximately
6 mm to approximately 14 mm, particularly of 6 mm or of 10 mm or of 14 mm.
- 20 4. Rescue underlay according to any one of the claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the
plastic flat material is a flame-resistant or fire-proof material and/or a non-decaying ma-
terial and/or a non-hygroscopic material and/or polyester material, polyamide fiber ma-
terial, in particular aramide fiber material, glass fiber material or saran fiber material.
- 25 5. Rescue underlay according to any one of the claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the
plastic flat material, particularly the spacer woven fabric or spacer knitted fabric, has at
the underside a closed plastic film coating (8), preferably of polyurethane material or of
polyester material which has a low sliding friction, preferably a lower sliding friction
than the plastic flat material itself.

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6. Rescue underlay according to claim 5, characterised in that the film coating (8) is water-impermeable, washable and readily able to be disinfected as well as, preferably, air-permeable.
- 5 7. Rescue underlay according to any one of the claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the plastic flat material has on the underside, particularly on the film coating (8), at least one area with higher sliding friction which optionally acts as a braking surface (9).
- 10 8. Rescue underlay according to claim 7, characterised in that the braking surface (9) is arranged in at least one end region of the underlay mat (4).
- 15 9. Rescue underlay according to any one of the claims 1 to 8, characterised in that an additional layer (10) of a plastic flat material providing a spring travel, particularly a spacer woven fabric or a spacer knitted fabric, is fixedly attached, particularly sewn, glued and/or welded, to the underlay mat (4), preferably at the underside, in an end region thereof.
- 20 10. Rescue underlay for mattresses (1), comprising a substantially rectangular underlay mat (4) consisting of a plastic flat material which has a high tensile strength, the dimensions of which approximately correspond with the dimensions of the mattress (1), pull loops (5) or the like, patient securing belts (6) and, optionally, mattress retaining bands (7) or the like, all attached to the underlay mat (4), particularly according to any one of the claims 1 to 9,
- 25 characterised in that the patient securing belts (6) are placed at the edge of the underlay mat (4) and are connected at the free ends thereof with the material of the underlay mat (4) by sewing or by means of VELCRO hook and loop connections in a way enabling tearing off of the free ends if necessary.
- 30 11. Rescue underlay for mattresses (1), comprising

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a substantially rectangular underlay mat (4) consisting of a plastic flat material which has a high tensile strength, the dimensions of which approximately correspond with the dimensions of the mattress (1),

pull loops (5) or the like, patient securing belts (6) and, optionally, mattress retaining

5 bands (7) or the like, all attached to the underlay mat (4),

particularly according to any one of the claims 1 to 9,

characterised in that

the underlay mat (4), preferably on its underside, is provided with tunnel-like receptions

(12) accommodating the patient securing belts (6), wherein the patient securing belts (6)

10 when not in use are positioned within the tunnel-like receptions (12) lengthwise,

wherein one end of the respective patient securing belt (12), in particular a closure ele-

ment (11) at the end of the patient securing belt (12), is protruding from the tunnel-like

reception (12) such that it can be easily located and gripped in a rescue situation.

15 12. Rescue underlay according to claim 11, characterised in that the tunnel-like recep-
tions (12) are positioned substantially transversely to the underlay mat (4).

13. Rescue underlay according to claim 11 or claim 12, characterised in that the tun-
nel-like receptions (12) are connected to the underlay mat (4) by sewing, in particular to
20 the underside thereof.

14. Rescue underlay according to any one of the claims 1 to 13, characterised in that
the rescue underlay comprises altogether three patient securing belts (6) positioned in
different distances from the head end of the underlay mat (4), wherein those distances
25 preferably are about 50 cm, about 80 cm and about 120 cm.

15. Mattress characterised in that a rescue underlay, preferably a rescue underlay ac-
cording to any one of the claims 1 to 14, is permanently affixed to the mattress or is in-
tegrated into the mattress.

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